Given your interest in the economy, I want to share the latest unemployment report released by the U.S. Department of Labor. I'm deeply disappointed by today's jobs report. The national unemployment rate has risen to 9.2%, over fourteen million people are without jobs, and job creation is virtually stagnant. Behind these troubling figures are heart-wrenching stories of Americans out of work for months, sometimes years, who are struggling to put food on the table and pay their mortgage. My heart goes out to Northern Californians and our fellow citizens across our nation who are struggling to find work.

President Obama has chosen to steer our economy through massive spending, excessive regulations, and a consistent threat of tax increases that continue to stand in the way of job creation. Now the President is asking for an increase to our debt limit after offering a budget that ignored the debt crisis to the point that not a single Senator—Republican or Democrat alike—voted for it when it was considered on the Senate floor. Left unchecked, President Obama's policies will only lengthen the streak of twenty-nine months with unemployment over 8%. It's no wonder that the number one focus of the American people is jobs, jobs, jobs.

House Republicans have been listening and I am supporting a strong, jobs driven agenda that will get America back to work and help put our economy on the right track. Now is not the time to be adding to the burdens with higher taxes and overregulation – it is time for policies that support America's entrepreneurs and working families. Republicans have stepped up to the plate and offered solutions that will do just that. I urge the President and Congressional Democrats to join us in getting America back on the path to prosperity.

Background: Read <u>the statement</u> signed by more than 150 economists that says, "An increase in the national debt limit that is not accompanied by significant spending cuts and budget reforms would harm private-sector job growth..." And learn more about the Republican blueprint for job creation at Jobs.GOP.Gov.

The following House-passed jobs bills await Senate action:

- H.R. 2 Repeal Obama Care
- H.R. 872, the Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act
- H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act
- H.J.Res. 37, a Resolution of disapproval regarding the FCC's regulation of the Internet and broadband industry practices

- H.R. 1249, the America Invents Act
- H.R. 1230, Restarting American Offshore Leasing Now Act
- H.R. 1229, Putting the Gulf of Mexico Back to Work Act
- H.R. 1231, Reversing President Obama's Offshore Moratorium Act
- H.R. 2021, the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act
- H.Con.Res. 34, the Republican Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2012

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